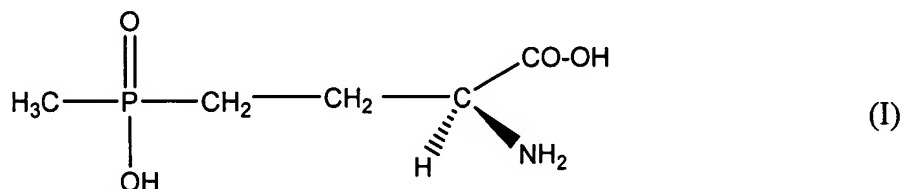


IN THE CLAIMS:

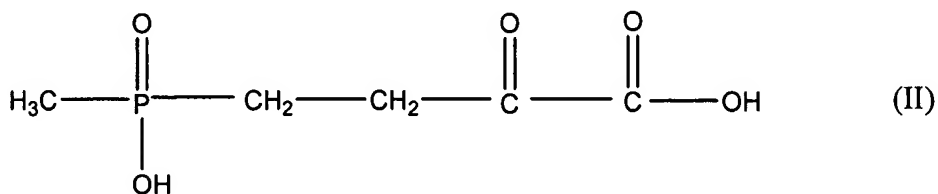
Please cancel claim 1-13 and add new claims 14-26 as follows:

1-13 (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing
~~L-2-amino-4-(hydroxymethylphosphinyl)butyric acid~~ L-2-amino-4-
(hydroxymethylphosphinyl)butyric acid (L-phosphinothricin, L-PPT) of the formula (I), its
derivatives which are selected from the group of carboxylic esters and carboxamides and
phosphinic esters and/or its respective salts



from 4-(hydroxymethylphosphinyl)-2-oxobutyric acid (HMPB, PPO) of the formula (II)



its derivatives which are selected from the group of carboxylic esters and carboxamides and
phosphinic esters and/or its respective salts as acceptor by enzymatic transamination in the
presence of aspartate as donor, where the transamination takes place in the presence of one or
more acceptor-specific aspartate transaminases (Asp-TA) to give oxaloacetate and the compound
of the formula (I), its derivatives and/or salts.

15. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the reaction of aspartate as donor and a compound of the formula II, its derivatives which are selected from the group of carboxylic esters and carboxamides and phosphinic esters and/or its respective salts as acceptor takes place in the presence of one or more thermally stable acceptor-specific aspartate transaminases.

16. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed ~~in one or more of claims 14 to 15,~~ in claim 14 wherein the acceptor-specific aspartate transaminases have a low substrate specificity for pyruvate so that the formation of the by-product alanine is avoided as far as possible.

17. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed ~~in one or more of claims 14 to 21,~~ in claim 14, wherein one or more of the transaminases are in immobilized form.

18. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed ~~in one or more of claims 14 to 16 in~~ claim 14, wherein pyruvate which is present is removed from the reaction mixture by physical, chemical and/or enzymatic means.

19. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the conversion of the pyruvate takes place in the presence of one or more acetolactate synthases (ALS) to give acetolactate.

20. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the conversion of the pyruvate takes place in the presence of a pyruvate decarboxylase to give acetaldehyde.

21. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the conversion of the pyruvate takes place in the presence of a pyruvate oxidase to give acetyl phosphate.

22. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed ~~in one or more of claims 18 to 20 claim~~ 18, wherein the conversion of pyruvate takes place in the presence of a thermally stable enzyme.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)